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FEBRUARY 2, 1864.

JAMES HUNT, ESQ., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The following new Fellows were elected. Rajah Sir James Brooke, K.C.B.; Rev. Henry Clare; Lieut. Fred. Firebrace, Royal Engineers; J. O. Griffiths, Esq.; Charles J. Harland, Esq.; A. E. McCallum, Esq., 39th Madras Native Infantry; George F. Rolph, Esq.; Dr. James Turler; Dr. George Moore, and H. J. B. Hancock, Esq. The Secretary read the list of presents given to the Society since the last meeting, for which thanks were voted to G. E. Roberts, Esq.; Dr. Beddoe; C. F. von Martins; J. Fred. Collingwood, Esq.; T. Bendyshe, Esq.; Dr. James Hunt; M. Georges Pouchet, and M. Duhousset.

The following paper was then read:—

Some Remarks on the Construction of the Upper Jaw of the Skull of a Greenlander. By Dr. C. G. CARUS.

HIGHLY appreciating the opportunity of corresponding with the London Anthropological Society, I feel myself called upon to communicate some remarks, and to add a question about them, the answer to which will not be uninteresting for anthropology in general.

In the first part of my *Atlas on Cramioscopy*, which appeared in Leipzig in 1843, I remarked that in the skull of a Greenlander, which I sketched, it was singular, that on this skull there was a decided separation between the upper jaw-bone and the intermaxillary bone, almost as in little children or in quadrupeds, and consequently in this skull there was a decided resemblance to an animal form.

Very soon after this I was so fortunate as to procure another real authenticated Greenlander's skull, and I was not a little surprised to find in this also quite the same conformation on the jaw-bones. Taking it for granted that the London Anthropological Society, either in their own collection, or at the British Museum, can easily procure a great number of real and genuine Greenlander skulls, I would propose that a strict examination may be made of all the skulls and their upper jaw from this race of people, and would look forward with pleasure to a report on this subject in the publications of the Society.

It would in all cases be very remarkable if this construction of the bones, which I find so very seldom in African, Asiatic, and European skulls, should occur so often as to make it almost *universal* among the Esquimaux. Certainly, if this is the case they might be classed among the lower order of human beings, and the well-known voracity of these tribes from the extreme north of North America could be then brought in a near connection with this particular conformation.

Mr. C. CARTER BLAKE stated that the above paper having been referred to him by the Council, it was now his duty to make a report

thereon. He had not thought it necessary to pursue the comparison further than the investigation of the Greenlander or Esquimaux skulls in the collection of the Royal College of Surgeons, and in the British Museum. He there found several instances in which the premaxillary palatine suture was distinctly closed in the skulls of Greenlanders, and on referring to his own note books, he found that similar instances were sometimes present in other races than the Esquimaux. His friend, the late Camille Bertrand, whose loss to anthropology he had personally to deplore, as well as the society at large, had accumulated many facts on this subject. He might further refer to Rousseau's valuable memoir, "De la non-existence de l'os intermaxillaire chez l'homme à l'état normal, et des erreurs commises à l'égard de la prétendue existence de cet os." Prof. Carus had not stated whether the fissure he alluded to was present on the outer or inner side of the maxillary bone. If the former, of course such an abnormality was almost unprecedented in the human adult; but if the latter not uncommon defect of ossification was all that Prof. Carus alluded to, Mr. Blake had much pleasure in reading the following passage from the work of his friend Dr. Webb, on *The Teeth in Man and the Anthropoid Apes*. "We may, however, remark here, that although the premaxillary palatine suture is usually entirely obliterated at a very early period in the human *cranium*, traces of its existence are occasionally found both in adult European skulls and in those of the dark races. A careful examination of the collection of *crania* in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons will satisfy the inquirer on this point. In the skull of the human idiot figured in the first volume of the *Zoological Transactions*, the same condition is represented, and its occasional occurrence has not only been noticed by Lawrence and other modern writers, but it was especially remarked by some of the older anatomists. In Vesalius's great work, *De Humani Corporis Fabrica*, edit. 1555, is an engraving of a skull exemplifying this peculiarity. Let it be, however, distinctly understood that in such exceptional cases the suture has never been found to extend through the *alveolus*. Galen, as Vesalius infers, debarred the practical study of human anatomy, and, restricted to the dissection of the lower animals, was led into the error of reckoning an intermaxillary amongst the separable bones in Man." The character in question was neither common to all Esquimaux skulls, and it was to be found in other races of man.

The thanks of the Society having been given to Dr. Carus and Mr. Blake: the following paper was then read.

On Anthropological Desiderata, considered with reference to the various Theories of Man's Origin and existing Condition, Savage and Civilised. By JAMES REDDIE, F.A.S.L., Hon. Mem. Dial. Soc., Edinburgh University.

SIR,—One of the first questions raised in this Society was, whether there were not already sufficient facts collected, from which it would be our duty to deduce general laws; or if the collecting of additional facts was not a primary duty? But, whether there be sufficient data